

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 14 have been amended. Claim 16 has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1–2, 6–9, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Catalano, U.S. Pat. No. 4,845,043.

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Claims 6, 7, 9, and 14 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 3 and, thus, are in condition for allowance. Claim 8 depends from claim 6 and, thus, is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Catalano, U.S. Pat. No. 4,845,043. Catalano does not teach all the limitations of claim 4. More specifically, Catalano does not teach “wherein said operation comprises a dosing of the reaction chamber with a vapour or gas comprising ammonia...” Referring to column 2, lines 5–21 of Catalano, Catalano discloses reacting a powerful reducing agent, such as diborane, with an oxidizer, such as nitrogen trifluoride, to remove residual boron prior to deposition of the i-layer. This chemical reaction **results** in NH_3 . The gasses used in Catalano as a precursor to avoid the contamination of the second layer are diborane and nitrogen trifluoride and not ammonia. Further, Catalano discloses using decontamination gasses containing fluorine, chlorine, or both, see column 5, lines 18–20 and column 6, lines 42–43. There is no suggestion in the prior art to use ammonia as a precursor gas to avoid contamination of the second layer.

Thus, Catalano does not teach using ammonia as a decontamination gas. Therefore, Catalano does not teach all the limitations of claim 4.

Claim 15 depends from claim 4, thus, all arguments pertaining to claim 4 are equally applicable to claim 15.

The Examiner objected to claims 3 and 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims and is, thus, in condition for allowance. Claim 5 depends from claim 3 and is, thus, in condition for allowance.

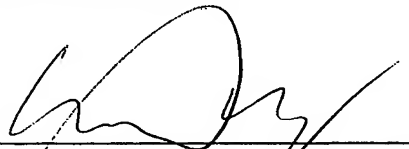
Catalano does not teach all the limitations of claim 16. More specifically, Catalano does not teach "wherein said doping agent comprises trimethylborane."

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35121US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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